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Letter dated 4 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to the letter dated 16 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/56), I should like to inform the Security Council that Qatar continues to take menacing and hostile actions that threaten the safety of navigation of civil aircraft, which is guaranteed by the relevant international agreements and conventions.

Over the past few months, Qatar has threatened civil aircraft that are following declared and published airways that have been approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Qatari warplanes have intercepted or flown close to civil aircraft and threatened the safety of the civilians on board those aircraft, and they have cut off civil airways without authorization from the Bahrain Area Control Centre, which is responsible for air traffic control services in that area. Such actions contravene the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention), article 3 bis (a) of which provides that "[t]he contracting States recognize that every State must refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight ...".

Bahrain deplores the irresponsible and reckless actions of Qatar with regard to civil aircraft and stresses the need to put an end to these provocative actions, which constitute a threat to security and stability, and run counter to the principle of good-neighbourliness. Bahrain is extremely concerned at the serious repercussions of those actions and the possibility that major incidents could occur that might threaten the safety of civilians. In that connection, we should like to draw attention to Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that "[a]ll Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter".

Bahrain, in keeping with its firm commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under international law and its keenness to ensure regional stability, will continue to strive to ensure the security and safety of civil aviation, despite the false allegations and accusations that are being indiscriminately levelled against it by Qatar, in order to divert attention from the latter's illegal actions. Bahrain urges the international community to demand that Qatar should immediately end its hostile actions and observe the rules of international law that are relevant to the safety and smooth operation of international aviation.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jamal Fares **Alrowaiei**
Permanent Representative

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